

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3418

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2024

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI

SUBJ: BLACK SCORPION AGAIN

1. A SOURCE, AN AMERICAN MIDDLEMAN WHO HAS ASKED NOT TO BE IDENTIFIED BY NAME OR IMPLICATION, HAS REPORTED AS FOLLOWS TO ME CONCERNING RECENT ACTIVITIES OF GENERAL BENJAMIN ADEKUN, CONTROVERSIAL "BLACK SCORPION" OF NIGERIAN CIVIL WAR DAYS. THE SOURCE KNOWS "BENJIE" WELL. I BELIEVE THAT MOST OF WHAT HE TOLD ME IS THOUGHT BY BOTH MEN TO BE TRUE, BUT BOTH HAVE CONSIDERABLE CAPACITY FOR SELF-DELUSION.

2. PRIOR TO FRIDAY'S COUP ATTEMPT THE MUHAMMED REGIME HAD TOLD ADEKUNLE THEY WANTED HIM TO COME BACK INTO THE GOVERNMENT "IN SIX MONTHS." NOW HIS PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN URGENTLY REQUESTED BY OBASANJO BUT ADEKUNLE HAS SAID HE CAN'T COME FOR SIX MONTHS BECAUSE "I HAVE TO GET MY BUSINESS AFFAIRS MOVING." (COMMENT: IT IS EQUALLY LIKELY HE IS BIDDING HIS TIME TO SEE HOW SECURE OBASANJO'S TENURE ACTUALLY IS. ADEKUNLE WAS OBASANJO'S COMMANDER DURING THE CIVIL WAR.)

3. SOURCE BELIEVES ADEKUNLE WANTS TO BE HEAD OF STATE HIMSELF. HE HAS ASKED SOURCE TO GET HIM A LIMOUSINE WITH FULL PROTECTIVE ARMOR.

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4. MUHAMMED HAD INTRODUCED ADEKUNLE TO NETO AS "MY PERSONAL AGENT

FOR ANGOLAN MATTERS." ADEKUNLE WANTS SOURCE TO OBTAIN TRUCKS AND FOOD (GRAIN, MEAT, FLOUR, MILK POWDER, ETC.) FOR THE MPLA. THESE PURCHASES WOULD BE MADE "WITH ANGOLAN MONEY" CONTRIBUTED BY A NUMBER OF FOREIGN (I.E. NON-ANGOLAN) SOURCES. SOURCE HAS ASKED ADEKUNLE TO GET HIM OUT OF NIGERIA TO ACCRA NOW BUT HE SAYS THE TWO OF THEM HAVE A LONGER TERM PLAN TO GO TO THE US TOGETHER SOON IN ORDER TO ARRANGE THESE PURCHASES FOR ANGOLA.

5. ADEKUNLE TOLD SOURCE THAT A CERTAIN COLONEL HAD CALLED HIM EARLY LAST WEEK TO ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE ADEKUNLE AT THE LATTER'S HOUSE BETWEEN 7 AND 7:30 FRIDAY MORNING, THE DAY MUHAMMED WAS SHOT. ADEKUNLE DID NOT KEEP THE APPOINTMENT, AND NOW BELIEVES HE WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED HAD HE BEEN THERE. (COMMENT: IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ASKED TO TAKE A POSITION IN A DIMKA-SPONSORED REGIME BUT NOW DOESN'T DARE TALK ABOUT THE RENDEZVOUS IN THOSE TERMS.)
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